



## *Iowa Outdoors*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653

[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

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**May 23, 2006**

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### **STATE PARK CAMPGROUNDS FILLING FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

CEDAR RAPIDS – Iowa State Park campgrounds are filling quickly for the Memorial Day weekend and the kickoff to the summer camping season. Nearly every campsite on the available through the reservation system has been filled. Only a few non-electric sites remain.

At Palisades-Kepler State Park, east of Cedar Rapids, Park Ranger Jim Hanson said campers wanting an electric site should arrive in his park no later than Wednesday. “Right now, the first come, first serve sites are still available. We will definitely fill up, it is just a question of when,” Hanson said. “People would do well to be out by tomorrow, especially if they want an electric site.”

Gwen Prentice, park ranger at Lake Macbride, said her sites on the reservation system are all taken, and she only has the 10 to 15 electric sites remaining on the first come, first served basis.

“Fishing has been great since last weekend,” Prentice said. Anglers are catching crappies, bluegills, largemouth bass during the day and channel catfish after dark.

The beach and boat rental is open and the 10 horsepower restriction is now in effect. The Lake Macbride naturalist will conduct some weekend programs too.

At nearby Pleasant Creek, all the electrical sites are full.

“We are going to be full at nearly every park this weekend because of the good weather forecast, the good fishing and the holiday weekend,” said Kevin Szcodronski, chief of the Iowa DNR’s state parks bureau. All state parks are open and all parks with concession operations will be open this weekend.

For campers using the campsite reservation system, Szcodronski said they can either go directly to their campsite, or if they do not know which campsite they reserved, they should stop by the registration kiosk in the park. The kiosk will have a map of the campground and a list of who has the site reserved and the confirmation number. Campers would be wise to bring their confirmation letter along, in case of a dispute.

“We are going to be busy this weekend, so we need all campers to be courteous to their neighbors,” he said. “The weekend would probably be more enjoyable if campers remember the sunscreen and the bug spray.”

**For more information, contact the local state park office or Szcodronski at 515-281-8674.**

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## **PROTECT IOWA’S FORESTS – LEAVE FIREWOOD AT HOME**

DES MOINES – This weekend and throughout the summer thousands of Iowans will be camping and building campfires – often by bringing firewood from home to their favorite state or county park site. But this year federal and state forestry officials are encouraging campers to leave their firewood at home and obtain it locally.

“Transporting firewood around the state or into adjacent states could threaten the health of our forests by spreading insects and diseases that live in dead wood,” says Kathryn Maloney, Director of the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area.

As you read this, forestry experts in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario are battling emerald ash borer; a tiny green beetle unintentionally introduced to the United States from Asia. Since its discovery in 2002, the insect has killed more than 15 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio alone. Deb McCullough, research entomologist

at Michigan State University, said “in many cases, the spread of emerald ash borer has been traced to the transportation of infested firewood to campsites and cabins.”

Iowa forestry officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University Extension Entomology concur that moving unseasoned firewood with bark attached can spread unwanted pests and diseases to new areas – but they also confirm that no emerald ash borer has been found in our state.

“To date, continuing joint sentinel trap tree work and survey efforts have not found emerald ash borer in Iowa,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa DNR’s forestry bureau. “There is no reason to remove ash trees or to do any type of chemical treatments for a pest that has yet to be found. But, by reducing the movement of firewood from homes to public camping areas, we can minimize the risk of unintentional introduction of an unwanted pest such as emerald ash borer.

“Wisconsin has recently banned bringing firewood into their state parks as the concern of emerald ash borer coming from Michigan,” Walkowiak said. He urged travelers to states infected with the emerald ash borer, including Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, to not bring firewood from those states back to Iowa.

“Plenty of firewood is available locally to your favorite state or county park and has a lower risk of introducing unwanted pests. Lastly, make sure you burn all of your firewood at your campsite and not leave it or transport to a new area,” Walkowiak said.

For more information about emerald ash borer go to [www.emeraldashborer.org](http://www.emeraldashborer.org).

**For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966 or by email at [john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us)**

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## **FIRE DAMAGES RESTROOM AT LACEY-KEOSAUQUA STATE PARK**

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa – A fire Saturday evening at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park damaged the women’s latrine near the lodge. The latrine, built by the Civil Conservation Corps in the 1930s, received significant damage.

The fire started when a generator, brought in to supply power to a piano for a wedding, ignited straw bales and plywood placed nearby to muffle the noise. Larry Rippey, of Fairfield, placed the generator behind the limestone building to keep the noise down during the ceremony.

The Keosauqua Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire. Custom Construction, a contractor from Keosauqua, is working on an estimate to repair the damage.

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## **CLEAR LAKE COULD BE A QUIETER PLACE THIS SUMMER BOAT NOISE LAW TO BE ENFORCED**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

CLEAR LAKE---Thanks to the recent donation of a three-thousand dollar decimeter by members of the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, DNR Law Enforcement officials are hoping that Clear Lake will be a quieter place this summer --- not in terms of recreational use, but in terms of reduced noise.

"The noise [from large boats] has become very bothersome at Clear Lake, and in many cases has just gone beyond reason," said Association board member, Brad Price. "Many of the larger boats are able to bypass their muffler system which brings noise to a level that impacts the enjoyment of others using the lake. The decimeter is a high-tech tool that has been used effectively in other areas, like Lake Okoboji, and we think it will work here."

According to Conservation Officer Randy Schnoebelen, the DNR plans to begin using the new decimeter around Memorial Day weekend. Water safety personnel hope the device will become an educational as well as an enforcement tool.

"People travel from all over the state to boat on Clear Lake, and right now I think there are a lot of people who don't realize that there is a maximum noise [or decibel reading] level established for boats in the Iowa Code," said Schnoebelen. "One thing everyone should realize, however, is that the excessive noise created by some boats is very disruptive to the recreation and enjoyment of others."

"The DNR and the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake have been very good partners over the years. We're always looking for new projects, and thought this could be one way to make the lake a better place to live and recreate," said Price. "The Association's main focus is on the CLEAR Project and water quality, but I think the decimeter is just one more way to make the lake more family friendly and improve the quality of recreation for everyone."

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## **LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH DNR URGES OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS TO LEAVE WILDLIFE BABIES WHERE THEY BELONG ----- IN THE WILD**

By Lowell Washburn  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

DES MOINES--As predictable as May flowers, this year's crop of wildlife babies is in full bloom.

From now until at least mid-June, DNR offices from every corner and county of the state will be inundated with hundreds [thousands?] of phone calls and scores of deliveries regarding "orphaned wildlife". Arriving at the office for work, it becomes nothing out of the ordinary for biologists to discover that complete litters of baby raccoons, foxes, or even skunks have mysteriously appeared on their door steps.

From fuzzy yellow ducklings to tiny baby bunnies, nothing appears more cute and cuddly than a wildlife baby. It's really no mystery why humans feel compelled to come to the rescue. But the harsh reality is that almost all of the wildlife babies reported to DNR field offices are not really orphaned at all. And while the people who attempt to "save" these babies may have the very best of intentions, they are in fact dooming the very creatures they intend to help.

Regardless of whether they are birds or mammals, the young of most wildlife species leave their nests or dens well in advance of being able to care for themselves. Although broods or litters may become widely scattered during this fledgling period, they still remain under the direct care and feeding of their parents. Unfortunately, this care is often short circuited by human intervention.

When a newborn fawn, nest full of baby cottontails, or brood of mallard ducks is discovered by humans, it is frequently assumed that the animals are orphaned. The fate of these youngsters is quickly and hopelessly sealed as the creatures are promptly "rescued from the wild".

Whether they are adults or young, all species of wildlife have highly specific needs for survival. When humans intervene, it usually means certain death for the very creature they are trying to aid. "Rescuing a baby from its mother" not only shows bad judgment -- it is also illegal. Baby mammals are protected by state law. The young of wild birds are protected by state and federal law.

Observing wildlife in its natural habitat is always a unique and exciting privilege. Taking a good photo or two will provide a more lasting memory. But once you've done that, let well enough alone. Leave wildlife babies where they belong -- in the wild.

It's unfortunate, but as long as people and wildlife continue to come in contact, there will always be a need for this column. As near as I can calculate, this is -- give or take -- about the 27th time I've rewritten this same information. But, don't think I'm discouraged. I'm not.

If these words cause even a few people to stop and think before scooping up a baby bunny or "saving" that newly hatched brood of ducklings from their natural mother, then this annual rewrite is well worth the effort.

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## **STATEWIDE WATERFOWL SUMMIT TO BE HELD JUNE 3**

MARSHALLTOWN - The Waterfowl Association of Iowa will hold its second annual Iowa Waterfowl Summit on Saturday, June 3 at Marshalltown's Fisher Community Center. The summit begins at 9 am.

The purpose of the summit is to inform Iowa duck and goose hunters on issues affecting waterfowling as to give hunters an opportunity to discuss these topics with personnel from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said Waterfowl Association secretary, Jeremy Rosonke.

Public programs will focus on results of national and state duck hunter surveys, avian influenza, Ducks Unlimited habitat programs, prairie pothole joint venture activities, and wildlife budget issues.

"We had a very good turnout for last year's summit, and are hoping for even better attendance at this event," said DNR waterfowl technician, Alan Hancock.

"This year's agenda offers some very highly educational programs that just aren't available elsewhere. The information presented will be of interest to waterfowlers everywhere. I think everyone who attends will be very pleased with they learn," said Hancock.

**For additional information on this year's Waterfowl Summit contact Jeremy Rosonke at 641-330-7486.**

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## **PEREGRINE FALCONS PRODUCE YOUNG IN IOWA**

BOONE - Ten pairs of peregrine falcons have been reported across Iowa this spring, with four pairs producing young. Hatchling peregrines are reported at Cedar Rapids, Mid American headquarters in Davenport, Louisa Generating Station near Louisa, Alliant Energy Plant at Chillicothe. Status of a nesting pair at Great River Bridge in Burlington is unknown at this time.

Bob Anderson, director of Raptor Resource Project, reported two wild nesting pairs of at Lansing bluff and Leo's Bluff, near Waukon Junction, have been predatorized by raccoons. Any setback of losing clutches of eggs is unsettling. Losses are particularly disappointing at the natural sites, where peregrines have pioneered their return to the rocks of northeast Iowa.

A new peregrine pair in Des Moines is believed to have replaced the birds at American Republic Insurance building. However, their eggs were laid on concrete where incubation was impaired. Four inches of pea gravel has been added to this site to provide structure for eggs and capability to keep the eggs dry. This site should be all set for nesting next spring. Peregrine pairs on two bridges of Quad Cities were provided nest trays with pea gravel. It is hoped peregrine pairs will utilize trays to keep eggs secure on I 80 bridge and similarly on I 280 bridge downstream from downtown Davenport.

**For more information, contact Pat Schlarbaum at 515-432-2823.**

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## **IOWA FREE FISHING DAYS SLATED FOR JUNE 2, 3 AND 4**

DES MOINES – Thinking about going fishing? There is no better time to than Free Fishing Days, June 2, and 4. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has waived sport fishing license requirements for Iowa residents for three days in recognition of National Fishing and Boating Week, June 3-11.

Gather the family or friends and head to one of the hundreds of Iowa lakes, thousands of miles of rivers or even a nearby pond for a few hours of outdoor fun and relaxation.

Many fishing clinics, derbies, and other fun events co-sponsored by the DNR occur during Free Fishing Days. Check out [www.iowadnr.com/fish/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/index.html) for a list of events.

All fishing laws, including size and creel limits are still in effect. Copies of the *2006 Iowa Fishing Regulations* are available from fishing license outlets such as county recorders, sporting goods stores and DNR offices, or online.

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## **Take Me Fishing! It's National Fishing and Boating Week**

Celebrate with us and discover just how much fun fishing and boating can be when you do it together.

Across Iowa, in local communities like yours, numerous fishing events will happen throughout the summer, many during National Fishing and Boating Week, June 3-11. Have some fun and spend quality time with your family and friends while learning about one of the nation's favorite pastimes - fishing. There is something for everyone.

No activity can bond a family together quite like fishing. It's a great way to have fun, create new memories and spend time together. For more information about fishing in Iowa, check out the Department of Natural Resources website: [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and click on "fishing." To find out what's biting where, click on "fishing report."

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## **LAST CHANCE TO ORDER CONSERVATION PLANTS FOR THIS SPRING**

AMES - The State Forest Nursery of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will accept tree and shrub seedling orders until June 2. These seedlings are ideal for creating your a forest or wildlife area.

More than 35 species are still available, including hard to find native Northern pecan, sugar maple, and Chinkapin oak. Select bur oak, pin and white oak along with basswood, river birch, silver maple and sycamore are also in good numbers to create a native forest. To attract wildlife and songbirds, select shrubs including nannyberry, Nanking cherry, redbud, dogwood, silky dogwood and serviceberry are available. For winter cover and greenery, jack pine, red pine, Scotch pine, white pine and white spruce are also available.

"We are still in ideal planting conditions because of the drawn out cool weather and statewide rainfall. There is still time to plant trees and shrubs, but you have to act fast to get them ordered and planted before the heat of summer arrives," said John Walkowiak, chief of the DNR's forestry bureau.

Seedlings can be ordered in species units of 100 with a minimum total order of 500. Prices are \$0.25 to \$0.45 per seedling depending on size and species. Shipping is \$5 per 100 plants. Create-a-Wildlife packet allows landowners to order up to 4 different



species, in units of 50 plants, for a total of 200 plants. This new packet is available for \$90 plus \$10 shipping. For more details for to order, call the State Forest Nursery at 800 865-2477. Information and on-line order form are also available at [www.iowadnr.com/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/).

**For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966 or by email at [john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us)**

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of May 23, 2006**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 63 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 10.15 feet. Water levels are expected to rise slightly over the next several days.

In upper **Pool 16**, fishing has been fair around the Arsenal Dam for walleye; however, fishing has been slow near the Arsenal. Fishing has been fair for walleye and sauger around the wing dams throughout the Mississippi River. Walleye and sauger have been biting on jigs tipped with minnows and crankbaits. White bass fishing has been good in the tailwater and spillway areas below the navigation dams, below the Arsenal dam, in Sylvan Slough, Credit Island area, and the mouth of tributary rivers and streams on jigs, spinners and minnows. Fishing for channel catfish continues to be fair in the backwaters and the mouths of tributary rivers and streams on shad guts, cut shad, night crawlers and shrimp. Catfishing has been best in the tributary rivers such as the Iowa and Rock rivers. Crappie and bluegill fishing continues to be fair in the back waters ....try Sunset Marina and Andalusia in **Pool 16**, Big Timber area and Huron Island in **Pool 17**, and Lake Odessa **Pools 17/18**. These backwaters are also producing a few channel catfish.

**Lake Odessa (Louisa):** Hopefully some warm weather this week will bring the crappies in for one last run. Anglers are starting to move their attention to bluegills as the males start to move in shallow to build nests.

**Lake Darling (Washington):** Water temperature in the afternoon is about 64 degrees. It looks like the crappies have given up on the spawn and have moved back to the deep water habitat. A few of the 5 to 6-inch fish are still in shallow. The bluegills are in shallow in the warmer bays. Look for increased numbers of 7 to 8 inch fish. Catfish are biting in the late afternoon and evening hours on chicken liver.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): The crappies are done spawning and moved to the creek channel and deeper water. Troll along the channel and ledges to pick up some nice 10 to 12-inch crappies. The bluegills and redears are in the shallows looking to build nests. Small jigs tipped with worms are a good bet to catch some very nice fish.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Warm weather, big bluegills in shallow. Cold weather, big bluegills in 10 to 12 feet of water. No matter where you find them they seem to be hungry. Small jigs tipped with wax worms or worm fished slowly seems to be the trick.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs and small jigs tipped with a minnow. Walleyes have been biting on night crawlers being trolled along rock piles and drop-offs.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been hitting on small jigs fished in 10 feet of water and shallower. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and cut bait.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs fished around shoreline structure. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Buzzbaits have been productive in the mornings and evenings. Spinnerbaits and crankbaits have also been productive.

**Lake Hawthorn** (Mahaska): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs fished in the standing timber. Largemouth bass have been hitting crankbaits and spinnerbaits fished around the rock jetties and other areas of the lake with riprapped shorelines.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Crappies are expected to move shallow to spawn with the warm weather forecast. Try mid depths until water temperature comes up, then try shallower depths with jigs or minnows.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Bluegills and redears had moved to the shallows before the cold weather moved in. When it warms up again, expect these fish to be shallow and biting.

**Hannen Lake** (Benton): By the end of the week crappies and bluegills should be shallow and more willing to bite. Try small jigs or wax worms around the brush for best results.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): Crappie fishing slowed a little due to the cool off but it is expected to pick up with the warming weather and warmer water. Try around the brush piles with jigs, minnows or wax worms.

**Otter Creek** (Tama): Anglers looking for action and tasty fish should come here for yellow bass. The size is marginal (6 to 8 inches) with an occasional larger fish, but numbers will add up for plenty of meat for a couple of meals.

**Iowa River** (Louisa): The river has slowly been dropping last week (about two feet). Anglers have still been catching a few channel catfish and a few flatheads.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** The Mississippi River at Guttenberg has finally crested and river stage on Monday was 10.92 feet with a two foot fall expected by next weekend. Lansing was at 9.99 feet and Bellevue was 11.3 and falling. Main channel water temperature in **Pool 10** has risen almost 10 degrees since last week and was at 60

degrees on Monday. Water temperature at Bellevue is 64 degrees. Even with the higher water conditions, anglers are catching fish on the Big Miss. Bluegills are biting in Norwegian and Methodist Lakes in the Sny Magill complex (**Pool 10**). Use a piece of night crawler under a bobber along the exposed shoreline in 2 to 4 feet of water with woody structure. Bluegills are also being caught on night crawlers fished on the bottom in the tailwaters of **Pools 9 to 11**. Fish near the dam along the rocks in areas of slack water. Bluegills and crappies are biting along the shorelines in Sabula Lake (**Pool 13**). Keep in mind that Sabula Lake is considered an inland lake and an Iowa fishing license is required. The tailwaters of **Pools 9 to 11** are good areas for other fish species, especially freshwater drum (sheephead). Use a jig and minnow or other bottom bouncing lures, like Sonars, to catch nice-sized drum. Drum are also biting in sloughs that flow into the main channel. Use a heavy sinker to take the night crawler to the bottom for hungry drum. A few anglers are reporting walleye biting in Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**). When fishing the sloughs for walleye, troll a three-way rig with a piece of night crawler or a deep-diving crankbait. Other sloughs to try walleye fishing in are Wyalusing Slough (**Pool 10**) and Cassville Slough (**Pools 10 and 11**). Walleyes are biting on the wing dams in **Pools 12 to 15**. Smallmouth bass are being caught on crankbaits and in-line spinners in **Pools 9 to 11** in areas with some current along rocky shorelines or wing dams. Northern pike are being caught in Blackhawk Park (**Pool 9**) and Norwegian and Methodist Lakes (**Pool 10**). In these areas, use a spinner bait along weedy shorelines or submerged vegetation. Some largemouth bass are being caught in the backwater areas out of the current in **Pools 9 to 11**. Throw spinner baits or soft plastics along the shoreline with woody structure or submerged vegetation. A few channel catfish are hitting night crawlers fished in **Pools 12 to 15**. White bass are biting in the tailwaters of the lock and dams in **Pools 12 to 15**.

**Turkey River** (Fayette): Water level and clarity is good. Some smallmouth bass can be caught on light colored jigs.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): The Maquoketa is in excellent condition and fishing is good for bluegill, channel catfish, walleye and smallmouth bass. Smallmouth bass fishing is good below the Delhi dam in the catch-and-release area on artificial and live baits. Walleye fishing is fair below the dam on jigs tipped with a night crawler.

**Big Woods, Brinker and South Prairie lakes** (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good using a minnow under a bobber along the shoreline.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Bluegill fishing is good on small jigs tipped with a piece of worm or wax worm under a bobber. Bluegills are now spawning on the rocks and woody structure, so fish close to shore in the early mornings to avoid heavy boat traffic. Anglers are also catching largemouth bass casting spinners and crankbaits along the shoreline. Channel catfish are biting on dead minnows and cut baits.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Largemouth bass are biting close to shore. Crappie and bluegill fishing is picking up.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Anglers fishing for crappie are reporting catching largemouth bass close to shore hitting jigs tipped with a minnow. Bluegill fishing has slowed as they are beginning to protect their nests.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Bluegill and crappie fishing has slowed.

**Trout** fishing excellent and stream conditions are good to excellent. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or directly to

<http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

### **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing was good this past week. Drifting with shiners, minnows or leeches on Lindy rigs or leadheads were good producers during the day. Casting jigs and minnows under lighted bobbers are fair at night. Areas that produced were Anglers Bay, Templar Park and Reeds Run down to the south boat ramp in 8 to 15 feet of water. Bullhead fishing is fair at the North Grade using night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being caught in Anglers Bay and around Hales Slough throwing spinner baits. A few crappie and bluegills are being caught using minnows and mini-jigs tipped with leeches or wax worms in Angler's Bay.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Bluegills are being caught in the canals and around some docks. Anglers are catching largemouth bass in the canals and around flooded brush using soft plastic lures and jigs. A few smallmouth bass are being caught from Gull Point to Hiawatha Point and around Pillsbury Point.

**East Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good below the spillway. Casting jigs with minnows or shiners in the current breaks produced many good fish. For still fishing, cast a slip weight above a floating jig head tipped with a shiner for action. Fishing for white bass was also good below the spillway and around the bridges using jig and minnow combos. A few crappies are being caught around Charleston Beach area. Good opportunities exist for channel catfish at the narrows with traditional catfish baits.

**Center Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good around the lake in 8 to 12 feet of water. Casting jigs tipped with minnows and twisters in the breaks has produced 14 to 18-inch fish. Evening bite has been best.

**Little Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Crappies are being caught around shallow brush piles on jigs tipped with minnows.

**Lost Island Lake** (Palo Alto): Walleye fishing is fair in the evening casting jigs tipped with minnows. Bullhead fishing is fair near the bridge, using night crawlers on the bottom.

**Silver Lake** (Palo Alto): Bullhead fishing is fair.

**Ingham Lake** (Emmet): Anglers are catching 9 to 11-inch crappies along the rip rap.

**West Fork Des Moines River** (Emmet): Walleyes are being caught below the dam.

**Willow Creek** (Osceola): There is a good population of 3 to 5-pound channel catfish in this lake. Fish around the submerged brush and along the dam. Small bluegills are being caught around the shore using teardrop and worm under a bobber. Largemouth bass are being caught around the shoreline using plastic worms and jerkbaits.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Crappies and bluegills are being caught from the pier with small jigs and with minnows off the dam.

**Rock River** (Lyon): Anglers are catching northern pike using chubs on the bottom. Smallmouth bass are being caught using floating crankbaits.

**Brushy Creek** (Webster): Lots of small walleyes have been caught right off the

dam using leeches. Bluegills are biting on a small worm set up. Smaller bass have been caught along the shoreline. Crappies of varying sizes have moved into shallow water and around submerged trees.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Crappies have been fair to good in Town Bay along the shoreline. Fishing is fair for walleyes using jigs tipped with leeches under a bobber. Don't forget the 15-inch minimum length on walleyes at Black Hawk. Yellow bass have been hitting small jigs on the windy, rocky shoreline.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Anglers are catching some catfish on a variety of baits. Fishing is excellent for white bass casting or trolling crankbaits. Walleye fishing is good to excellent trolling crankbaits.

**Arrowhead Lake** (Sac): Fishing is good for medium sized bluegills using small jigs tipped with a night crawler.

**Crawford Creek** (Ida): Fishing is good for 8-inch bluegill on small jigs tipped with a night crawler or a hook tipped with a night crawler under a bobber. The fish have started moving to shore to spawn.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing has improved. Water temperature is in the low 60s. Anglers are catching fish trolling crankbaits. Live bait fishing has been producing a lot of walleyes below the 14-inch minimum length limit. The yellow bass bite has been excellent in the afternoon. The north shoreline, outlet, island and Dodges Point are best. Anglers fishing in the shallow water, near the bank, are having the best action. Use small jigs, minnows and cut bait for the best yellow action. Fishing is fair for bullheads using night crawlers on the bottom at the Ventura Grade and Ventura Access. Channel catfish are hitting night crawlers and chicken liver in the west end of the lake.

**Rice Lake** (Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom.

**Upper and Lower Pine lakes** (Hardin): Crappies are hitting on both lakes. Fish the downed trees and rocky shorelines using small jigs and minnows.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappies are being caught drift fishing in 10 to 14 feet of water, using small jigs suspended 4 to 8 feet off the bottom.

**Briggs Woods** (Hamilton): Crappies have been biting on small jigs and minnows. Fish the dam, the jetties or, if fishing by boat the outside of the vegetation.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Don Williams** (Boone): Crappie fishing is good using jigs and minnows in 5 to 15 feet of water over structure. Bluegill fishing has been good using night crawlers. Walleye fishing has been good for 14 to 16-inch fish. Channel catfish are being caught using chicken liver. Largemouth bass fishing has been good with fish over 15 inches.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Crappie fishing has been good using worms/bobbers in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been fair on worms. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good, particularly around the rockier areas.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Crappie fishing has been fair to good using jigs and minnows with the better fishing offshore in deeper water. Anglers reported catching smaller walleyes with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing is fair to good with some nice-sized fish being caught.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Fishing is good for 8 to 9-inch crappies using jigs and minnows suspended in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill fishing is good using night crawlers and bobbers. Several walleye have been caught with some over 15 inches. Largemouth bass fishing is fair along the rocky areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good on night crawlers.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good, particularly in the Marina area and below the out from Big Creek Lake. The shallow water coves have also produced some nice crappie fishing. White bass/wipers are being caught below the outlet from Big Creek.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows. Some nice walleyes have been caught further downstream. Crappie fishing has been good in the tailwater ponds with jigs and minnows.

**Below Scott Street Dam:** (Polk): Fishing is good to excellent for 8 to 12-inch white bass.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Crappies are good to excellent on jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good fishing 3 to 5 feet deep from shore and from boats using night crawlers. Channel catfish, from 10 to 15-pounds, are being caught on cut bait and chicken liver.

**Red Rock** (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs in the Whitebreast area.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): White bass and crappie fishing has been excellent with jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good to excellent using jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been slow.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Crappie fishing is fair with most anglers using jigs and minnows. Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been good, with some good-sized fish harvested. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, although most of the fish are below the legal length limit.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Crappie fishing has been fair to good with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing has been good with small jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area with crankbaits.

**Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

**Farm Ponds:** Fishing is good for bluegill in shallow water on night crawlers. Fishing is also good for crappie and largemouth bass.

**Green Valley** (Union): Crappies can be caught around cover or near the rocks on jigs and minnows. Some bluegill can be caught using jigs and night crawlers in the shallows. Bullheads are biting on night crawlers.

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good at the upper end using night crawlers and cut bait. Bluegill and crappie are biting over cover on jigs, night crawlers or minnows. Some walleye are being caught on leeches and night crawlers. The largemouth bass are around shallow cover.

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught with night crawlers.

**Binder Reservoir** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught on cut bait or night crawlers.

**Little River** (Decatur): Several nice crappies can be caught from shore in the rocks or near cover on minnows or jigs. Some walleyes are being caught trolling the points with night crawlers or leeches. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

**Slip Bluff** (Decatur): Some bluegills can be caught from the brush piles and the corners of the dam on night crawlers.

**Wilson Lake** (Taylor): Some nice bluegills are being caught near shore on night crawlers.

**Windmill Lake** (Taylor): Bluegills are biting near the corners of the dam and the coves on night crawlers.

**West Osceola** (Clarke): Large numbers of 8-inch crappie can be caught from the dam and from the flooded trees. The lake is 40 inches low. Use caution when using the east main ramp.

**Badger Creek** (Madison): Anglers are catching 7 to 9-inch crappie from shore near rock using jigs.

**Fogle Lake** (Ringgold): Nice bluegills can be caught near shore on night crawlers. Some crappie can be caught near the standing timber.

**Loch Ayr** (Ringgold): Crappie fishing is good from the dam using jigs.

**Three Fires** (Taylor): Several 12 to 14-inch largemouth bass have been caught around structure and from the rocks of the dam. Several 2-pound channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers.

**Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is fair for 2 to 3-pound channel catfish and 1 to 2-pound bullheads on minnows. Crappies are slow along the shoreline using minnows with a bobber. Bluegills are good using night crawlers with bobber.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegills are good using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Fish from 8 to 9 inches are common.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers in shallow areas. Greenfield and Nodaway have low water levels. Shore anglers best fishing would be off the dam.

**Meadow** (Adair): Largemouth bass are being caught around brush piles. Bluegills are also being picked up using night crawlers and bobber.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows on the east bay under the road and along rocky shoreline. A few channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers.

**Anita** (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The south boat ramp can be used with a small (14 foot) boat. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good. Fishing for 12 to 15-inch largemouth bass has been good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Wiper fishing has slowed. A few are being caught along south shore with small jigs and spinners. Walleyes are fair drifting minnows and night crawlers along north and west shorelines. Crappie fishing is good using minnow and bobber in canals and along west shore. Bluegill fishing is fair using wax worms with

a bobber around the boat docks. A few channel catfish are being caught using dead minnows.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows along rocky shorelines. Channel catfish are being caught in shallow areas using night crawlers or dead minnows.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Crappies are good along rocky shorelines using jigs. Channel catfish fishing is fair in shallow bays. Largemouth bass from 3 to 5 pounds are being caught on rocky points using night crawlers with a slow retrieve.

**Willow** (Harrison): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows and bobbers in 8 to 10 feet of water. A few 7 to 8-inch bluegills are being caught.

**Farm Ponds:** Fishing is good for bluegills, using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is also good.

**Contact: Chris Larson (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

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